



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

JAMES K. HAVEMAN
DIRECTOR

November 8, 2012

Re: Important changes about the cost of the Newborn Screening Retest Card

Dear Hospital Administrator:

Beginning January 1, 2013 the MDCH Newborn Screening Program will charge a fee for all pink retest cards. The fee will be \$98.08 which is the same fee charged for the blue initial test cards. This change has become necessary for several reasons: 1) increased program costs associated with laboratory testing and follow-up of retests, along with medical management costs associated with the care of infants who have a positive newborn screening result; 2) a marked increase in the number of unsatisfactory specimens received by the NBS laboratory (from 1.6 % of all specimens in 2010 to 3.2 % of all specimens thus far in 2012); and 3) increased program costs associated with implementation of the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) Guidelines for Preterm, Low Birth Weight and Sick Newborns requiring repeat tests to improve the detection rate of disorders included in the newborn screening panel.

The Michigan Newborn Screening Program has never charged for retests, so it is with regret that this change is now necessary to maintain the financial viability and quality of the program. Our staff will continue to offer technical assistance to help minimize the number of retests for infants in your hospital.

Pink retest cards can be purchased beginning December 1, 2012. All specimens on pink retest cards that were not purchased and are received by the MDCH Newborn Screening Laboratory after January 1, 2013 will be tested and the submitter will be billed \$98.08 per card for the cost of testing. An order form and a process for ordering pink cards will be provided shortly in another communication from the Newborn Screening program.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Dr. William Young, the Director of Michigan's Newborn Screening Follow-up and Medical Management Program at (517) 335-8938. Additional information about newborn screening and this important change is available at www.michigan.gov/newbornscreening.

Sincerely,

Jean Chabut, Deputy Director
Public Health Administration